Voting of Demands for Supplementary Grants.

Demand IV—Excise—Cranganur.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I move for an additional allotment of Rs. 120 under IV—Excise—Refunds, Cranganur. This amout represents roughly the premium paid by one A. K. Mariyan, renter of toddy shop No. 182 of 1101. He executed a *kychit* at the beginning of 1101. In the course of the year, he did not pay the instalments regularly. His shop was, therefore, resold, and according to the rules, the premium was forfeited to the Sirkar, and it was credited to "Fines", Cranganur. Subsequently he paid off all his dues to the Government, and applied to the Diwan for a refund of the amount forfeited. It was found on enquiry that the failure on his part to pay the instalments regularly was due to the bad working of the shop due to causes beyond his control. The Government was, therefore, pleased to allow a refund of the amount. But the refund could not be allowed, as there was no allotment under that head. Hence the necessity for an increased allotment.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce the additional allotment of Rs. 120 under "IV Excise, Refunds, Cranganur" by Re. 1.*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move to reduce the amount by one rupee. The Excise policy of the Government was much criticised in this House at the first budget session. A token motion was passed, and it was pointed out in the course of that discussion that the policy of the Government should be changed. But, on perusing the figures of consumption, I do not think there is any appreciable reduction in the consumption. So, it is necessary to take some steps to reduce the consumption, and to effect this, I suggest that all liquor shops should be closed at 6 p. m. This is the main motion, i. e., that liquor shops should be closed at 6 p. m. This was before this House in the form of a resolution in the last session, but as there was not sufficient time, it was not taken up. Now, I put the matter before the House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know when, generally, the sale in the liquor shops takes place ?

President.—In the evening time. I think that is what I have seen. People gather in the evening in toddy shops.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If the sale is in the evening time, and if the shops are closed at 6 p.m., there will be no sale.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I support the motion, and in doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of this House the

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undesirable and most objectionable practice of giving temporary licenses during the *Bharani* festival. The horrors of the *Bharani* festival are themselves countless, and this issue of temporary licenses only adds to its horrors and its shameful nature. All the temporary shops are located near and around the temple. That is the place where even many people who are not drunkards congregate, and these liquor shops are a nuisance, to them, not to speak of their immoral results. Therefore, it is high time that the Government gives up its policy of getting money by the issue of temporary licenses.

President.—Do the men condemn the liquor shops only when they are near the temple and not when they are elsewhere ?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—It becomes a double nuisance. From the point of view of morality and from the point of view of general public policy, they are a nuisance.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I rise to condemn the policy of the Government in issuing temporary licenses for fairs, festivals and *Pooram*s. I had occasion to be at Trichur during the last *Pooram*, and I have seen the motley crowd that assembled there. Is it the policy of the Government, who have come here and have stated that they are one with the people in aiming at prohibition and have taken a token cut from this House—the only cut that we were able to carry in this House during the first budget session—to go and open liquor shops in the face of that expression of public opinion again at the *Pooram* at Trichur ? I think that is a fine way of treating public opinion. You have been telling us that you have been co-operating with the people, and that you are looking after their welfare, such as they themselves do, and that there is no distinction between official and non-official Members in the matter of the promotion of the interests of the people. We are very glad to hear that statement from you, and give you credit that you have honourably intended to do so. But we are telling you that the Government of Cochin —the official Members—do not care a wrap for such things as evidenced by their defiance in this particular matter.

President.—I challenge your statement.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am glad to receive the challenge. It is only in that way that I can prove that statement to the public at large. The expression of opinion in this definite matter is not to open liquor shops in crowded places. For festivals and fairs temporary licenses should not be given. We have insistently brought to your notice, and you were also agreed in a way to say that prohibition is your policy. Nevertheless,

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the officers of Government are absolutely callous in the matter. They want to give licenses and come back, and say "Grant us some little more". Are we to grant it ? We would be stultifying ourselves if we grant this additional allotment of Rs. 120. If it is necessary to pay it, you may do so on your own authority without consulting public opinion. You may find funds to pay it and do so and certify it. This House would stultify iteslf, if it voted for this grant. I, therefore, support this motion.

President.—Then is it your point that these temporary licenses should not be issued ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes . If you have a policy of reducing drink, you should not do it.

President.—Then how can we satisfy them ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Are we to carry liquor to their very doors ?

President.—Are we to ask them to go to distant places ?

Mr. A. B. Salem—You need not do anything . You keep at home. Do not go to fairs and festivals for making money by issuing temporary licenses. Find out some other means to raise revenue. That is your function ; and not to go there to put up liquor shops. Do not invite people there. If sweets are placed within the reach of children, they will naturally go to the sweets and eat them. Most of these people are like them.

President.—Are they ?

Mr. A. B. Salem—Certainly, Sir. Government is their parent and should look after them. Don't you compel them to do many things and not to do certain other things ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether this is a want of the people ?

President.—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I protest against the use of the word " want " in this connection. People do not want it.

President.—They are having recourse to it. To prevent them from taking to illicit liquor, Government are supplying them.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Government are encourgaing them.

President.—No, no. Certain people are given to drink because it satisfies a want of theirs.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why should you be an accomplice to it ?

President.—It is a technical question. What the Government have been saying is that Government is supplying them with liquor so that they may not go to other shops to drink. Now you say this is not a want.

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Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I have never understood it as a want.

President.—It is a want to those people who are given to drink.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is not a want, but a craving.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Whatever the reason be, I support the motion.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—I oppose the motion to close the shop at 6 p. m. (*Laughter*).

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We are not upon the question of the closing of the shop. That point, it is true, has been raised here now. But now we are on the point whether this Rs. 120 for fairs and festivals should be granted or not. Our point is that you are asking for Rs. 120 for fairs and festivals.

President.—At one stage the Member for Kunnamkulam moved for the closing of the liquor shops at 6 p. m. Now you are on the temporary licenses, and you say that this Rs. 120 is required for that purpose, and that you are not going to allow it.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—But the issue before this House is not that; it is whether the shops should be closed at 6 p. m. or not. The other is only a side issue.

President.—But did he not say a word about the temporary licenses?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No, Sir. But all these come in. That is all. It is the policy that is under discussion.

President.—There should be some definite statement.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—The Hon'ble the Mover may be asked to state the issue.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Let both be put together. I do not mind.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I supported the stand of the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam that the shops must be closed at 6 p. m.

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—I rise on a point of order. That cannot be a question for discussion. The question for discussion is whether the sum should be granted or not.

President.—But there is a token motion on that point, and we want to know whether the House is divided or not.

But anyhow the motion has to be considered now. Do you contend that the motion should not be considered?

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—But this should not be put to vote separately.

President.—No. This cut motion on which the House is divided has to be taken into consideration. That is all.

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Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, have you to say anything regarding the closure of the liquor shops at 6 p. m., so that the fact may be understood by the Members as to why, in spite of such representations by them, it is not being done?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The issuing of temporary licenses on the occasion of fairs and festivals is not a new thing. I had occasion to say in this House a number of times that we have only followed the Madras rules in this respect. There also the same rule prevails almost the same rule regarding the oppening of temporary shops during fairs and festivals.

President.—And why are they doing it?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That has also been answered, namely, that, if the demand is not met by licit liquor it will be met by illicit liquor. That is the sole reason why temporary licenses are issued.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I beg to interrupt the Hon'ble Member. He makes a statement that we are following the rules in force in the Madras Presidency. Sir Couts Trotter resigned his membership in the Board on the ground that licenses were not granted to open temporary liquor shops.

President.—So you object to that statement?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is an unqualified statement which should not have come from the Hon'ble Member for Excise.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I challenge the Member.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He has to prove his statement.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—My statement is based upon the Madras Sale Notifications. Even the notification for next year contains a provision for the issue of temporary licenses in the Madras Presidency.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is not the point. The point is regarding the issue of temporary licenses to open liquor shops during fairs and festivals. Why does he cloud the issue?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Absolutely no clouding the issue. Only, the Hon'ble Member should take pains to understand things properly. I say there is a provision to this effect in the Madras Sale Notification. There is such a practice there. We have been following it.

Then, with regard to the statement made by the Hon'ble Member for Jews that new shops were opened during the time of the Trichur *Pooram*, I say there is absolutely no foundation for that statement, for no special licenses were granted this year. I had been there to see that no new shop was opened.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am very glad to hear that.

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I am sorry to observe that unfounded statements are made before this House.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I absolutely withdraw it. I withdraw it unconditionally, if that is a mistake.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I know whether that was the practice in previous years.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In 1100 I gave license. During the budget session of that year there was some discussion about it here. As I was new to the department when license was granted in 1100, I followed the practice of previous years. From 1101 I did not issue any temporary licenses on the occasion of the Trichur *Pooram*.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I take it that no temporary licenses were issued to anybody?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We are on the question of the Trichur *Poorm*. In Cranganur I used to give. With regard to Cranganur, the point has also been answered in this House. I said that persons who go to Cranganur—many of them—are Sakthi Worshippers. They used to take liquor in their act of worship. They go there and sacrifice fowls.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I challenge it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is my information. They do not worship with toddy there but they take liquor now and then as a part of their worship.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It is not being done in Cranganur alone. It is being done through out Malabar.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Many go there to worship *Kali*. They sacrifice fowls, eat their flesh and use liquor very freely. We have allowed only one or two shops in the locality where the temple is situated.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—In this year there were 15 temporary shops.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I am speaking of permanent ones. There are two or three permanent shops. It is impossible for these two or three shops to supply the demand for licit liquor of the large congregation of people that assemble there

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Was there any complaint?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We can see more or less. It is a question of experience. It is impossible for these 50,000 people to get liquor from two or three shops.

President.—But there are frontier shops.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If we do not open new shops, of course, they will go to the British shops, fill their stomach and come bacck.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether there was any application from any section of the people for opening temporary shops? It is only the demand that will create supply. May I know whether supply was created or demand was created?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No application was received. In fact very few shops were opened on the application of the people.

Then with regard to the Excise policy of the State—the policy of the Darbar is to work up to prohibition—the Government has already appointed an Excise Committee. The final report of the Committee has been passed by the Committee.

President.—Is there any recommendation about these temporary licenses?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot say. The Government would be passing final orders on the recommendations of the Committee. Then with regard to the closure of the shops, the practice now is that all shops should be closed only at 9 p. m., But considering the practice that prevails in British India and Travancore, Government have fixed 8 p. m. as the time for the closure of the shops from next year. With regard to the closure at 6. p. m. it is nowhere obtained and it is not possible. Since the people who resort to drink are mostly labourers and since their work will be over only in the evening, it is impossible for them to get drink if the shops are closed at 6 p. m. That is why Madras and Travancore close their shops at 8 p. m. The Madras Government in passing orders on the recommendations of the Excise Committee cast a suggestion whether they have not gone too far in limiting the time for closure at 8 p. m. instead of 9 p. m. which was the practice before. So it is not possible to close the shops at 6 p. m.

President.—Now the facts have been stated fully, and I want to know whether the House is divided on the matter.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Yes, Sir.

President.—If the cut is passed, how would you manage?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is not exactly Rs. 120. It is only to round up the figure that we have put it like that. The actual amount would be a little short of that.

The question of reducing the additional allotment of Rs. 120 under "IV-Excise, Refunds, Cranganur," by Re. 1 was put to vote and was lost.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I ask for a poll, Sir, to see how it stands.

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The House was divided as follows:—

For.	Against.
1. Mr. A. Eachara Menon	1. Mr. C. Achyuta Menon
2. Dr. A. Govinda Menon	2. Mr. K. Achyuta Menon
3. Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar	3. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon
4. Srimati T. Madhavi Amma	4. Mr. O. R. Chummar
5. Mr. K. T. Mathew	5. Mr. P. Damodara Menon
6. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon	6. Mr. K. Govinda Menon
7. Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar	7. Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon
8. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar	8. Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon
9. Mr. M. K. Raman	9. Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi
10. Dr. A. R. Menon	10. Mr. C. Matthai
11. Mr. A. B. Salem	11. Mr. I. Raman Menon
	12. Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur
	13. Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
	14. Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar
	15. Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

Neutrals.

1. Mr. I. E. Ambooken
2. Mr. George Chakyamuri
3. Mr. K. P. Karuppan

The question of granting the additional allotment of Rs. 120 was put to vote and was carried.

Demand XIII—General Administration.

1. Huzur Secretariat.

President.—The next item is the motion by the Secretary to the Diwan for an additional allotment of Rs. 600 under "XIII—I—Huzur Secretariat, Special Finance Committee," by transfer from "XXXI—Miscellaneous—Entertainment of State Guests."

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional grant of Rs. 600 by transfer under XIII—General Administration—1. Huzur Secretariat—Special Finance Committee.

The allotment of Rs. 1,000 first provided in the budget for 1102 for expenses in connection with the Special Finance Committee was found inadequate, and it was subsequently raised to Rs. 2,000 as sanctioned in the Kumbham sitting of the Legislative Council. The allotment thus raised, however, soon ran out, as the expenditure under the head was exceeding the anticipation on account of the more frequent meetings of the Committee and the visits to offices by the Members of the Committee. A sum of Rs. 620 was, therefore, transferred to this head from the funds then available under "XIII. IV- Legislative Council—Travelling Allowance". This raised the grant under the head to Rs. 2,620; but the whole of this has been expended.

As further expenses have to be incurred under the head in the current year, it is found necessary to raise the grant by Rs. 600. This sum is proposed to be transferred from the sav-

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